

REMARKS

Applicants are submitting this Response to the Office Action dated July 21, 2005. In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-21, 24-26, 28-35, and 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 9, 10, 22, 27, 36, and 45 are objected to. In response, Claims 1, 8, 17, 22, 24, 30, and 40 have been amended. Claims 9, 27, and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in a condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to allowance.

In the first instance, independent Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 9 that the Patent Office has only objected to. Therefore, independent Claim 8 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Independent Claim 17 has been amended to add a limitation from Claim 22. In this regard, the pH range of the acid concentrate has been set forth. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of this amendment, that Claim 17 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 27, which claim has been objected to. Therefore, independent Claim 24 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Independent Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 36 that has only been objected to. Therefore, independent Claim 30 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Independent Claim 40 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 45 that has only been objected to. Therefore, independent Claim 40 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the first acidic solution has a pH of less than 3.8. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of this amendment that Claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the references of record and is allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present patent application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same. If there are any issues with respect to this patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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